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- 1 1. (withdrawn) A torque-transmitting assembly comprising:
 - 2 a) a female coupling member with a bore;
 - 3 b) a radially flexible member, received within the bore, defining a hollow shape
 - 4 with an opening; and
 - 5 c) an elongated shaft member made of a super-elastic alloy, received within the
 - 6 opening,
- 7 whereupon relative motion among at least two of the members causes the
- 8 radially flexible member to contact the shaft, inducing a super-elastic activation in
- 9 the shaft that urges the shaft and radially flexible member into surface-to-surface
- 10 contact, securing the members together in a fixed relative position.
- 1 2. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 1 wherein the radially flexible member has
- 2 an external surface that frictionally engages the bore upon relative motion.
- 1 3. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 1 wherein the shaft is tubular with a
- 2 cannulation.
- 1 4. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 3 wherein the bore of the female coupling
- 2 member further comprises a cannulation aligned with the shaft cannulation, for
- 3 common passage of a guide wire there through.
- 1 5. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 1 further comprising an inter-positional
- 2 polymer sleeve for transmitting bending stress in the assembly.

- 1 6. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 1 wherein the contact occurs in one or
2 more areas that frictionally carries the applied torque.

- 1 7. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 6 wherein the contact area is calibrated so
2 that the contact slips at a preset torque before the failure strength of the shaft is
3 reached.

- 1 8. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 1 wherein the female coupling member
2 further comprises a counter-bore and the radially flexible member has an exterior
3 surface adapted for engagement within the counter-bore.

- 1 9. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 8 wherein the radially flexible member is
2 compressed within the counter-bore.

- 1 10. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 1 wherein the female coupling member is
2 a fitting that connects the assembly to a cutting tool-bit or powered instrument.

- 1 11. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 1 wherein the female coupling member
2 further comprises a fitting with a cutting tool-bit.

- 1 12. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 11 wherein the assembly is further
2 connected to a powered instrument.

- 1 13. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 1 wherein the radially flexible member is
2 a split collet.

- 1 14. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 1, the radially flexible member being in
2 the form of a collar and made of super-elastic alloy, wherein the relative motion
3 further induces a super-elastic activation of the collar.

- 1 15. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 1 wherein the collar further comprises a
- 2 washer.

- 1 16. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 15 wherein the collar further comprises a
- 2 series of washers.

- 1 17. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 14 wherein the super-elastic alloy is a
- 2 nickel-titanium alloy.

- 1 18. (currently amended) A torque-transmitting coupling assembly comprising:
 - 2 a) a split collet member having an exterior surface and an opening;
 - 3 b) an elongated, ~~tubular~~ shaft member made at least substantially of an alloy
 - 4 selected from a group of alloys consisting of super-elastic, bi-metal alloys and
 - 5 super-elastic, tri-metal alloys, including super-elastic, bi-metal and tri-metal
 - 6 nickel-titanium alloys, received within the opening; and

 - 7 c) a sleeve member having ~~a bore~~ an aperture that receives the exterior surface of
 - 8 the collet,

 - 9 whereupon relative motion among at least two of the members causes the opening
 - 10 to contact the shaft, the shaft and the collet being urged into surface-to-surface
 - 11 contact sufficiently to induce a martensitic activation of the super-elastic alloy,
 - 12 thus securing the members together in a fixed relative position.

- 1 19. (previously presented) The assembly of Claim 18 wherein interfering
- 2 engagement of the exterior surface with the ~~bore~~ an aperture compresses the
- 3 opening against the shaft, inducing the martensitic activation in the shaft.

- 1 **20. (original) The assembly of Claim 18 wherein the shaft is tubular with a cannulation.**
- 1 **21. (original) The assembly of Claim 20 wherein either the sleeve or collet has a cannulation aligned with the shaft cannulation, for common passage of a guide wire there through.**
- 1 **22. (original) The assembly of Claim 18 further comprising an inter-positional polymer sleeve for transmitting bending stress in the assembly.**
- 1 **23. (previously presented) The assembly of Claim 18 wherein surface-to-surface engagement occurs along one or more contact areas that frictionally carries the applied torque.**
- 1 **24. (original) The assembly of Claim 23 wherein the contact area is calibrated to slip at a preset torque before the failure strength of the shaft is reached.**
- 1 **25. (previously presented) The assembly of Claim 18 wherein the collet is adapted for connection to a cutting tool fitting or powered instrument.**
- 1 **26. (previously presented) The assembly of Claim 18 wherein the collet further comprises a cutting tool fitting.**
- 1 **27. (previously presented) The assembly of Claim 26 further adapted for coupling to a powered instrument.**
- 1 **28. (withdrawn) A torque-transmitting coupling assembly comprising:**
 - 2 **a) a fitting member formed with a counter-bore;**

3 b) a collar member made of super-elastic alloy, having an exterior surface and an
4 opening, the collar being located in the counter-bore; and

5 c) an elongated shaft member made of a super-elastic alloy, received within the
6 opening;

7 whereupon relative motion between the fitting and the collar causes the
8 collar to contact the shaft, inducing a super-elastic activation in the shaft that
9 engages the shaft and collar into surface-to-surface contact, securing the members
10 together in a fixed relative position.

1 29. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 28 wherein engagement of the exterior
2 surface with the counter-bore super-elastically compresses the opening against the
3 shaft.

1 30. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 29 wherein the collar further comprises a
2 washer.

1 31. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 30 further comprising a series of washers.

1 32. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 28 wherein the super-elastic alloy is a
2 nickel-titanium alloy.

1 33. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 28 wherein the shaft is tubular with a
2 cannulation.

1 34. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 33 wherein the fitting has a cannulation
2 aligned with the shaft cannulation, for common passage of a guide wire there
3 through.

- 1 35. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 28 further comprising an inter-positional
2 polymer sleeve for transmitting bending stress in the assembly.

- 1 36. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 29 wherein the frictional engagement
2 occurs along one or more contact areas that frictionally carries the applied torque.

- 1 37. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 36 wherein the contact area is calibrated
2 so that the coupling slips at a preset torque before the fatigue strength of the shaft
3 is reached.

- 1 38. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 28 wherein the fitting is connected to a
2 cutting tool-bit or powered instrument.

- 1 39. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 28 wherein the fitting further comprises a
2 cutting tool-bit.

- 1 40. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 39 further coupled to a powered
2 instrument.

- 1 41. (withdrawn) A method of forming a torque-transmitting assembly, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 a) providing a female coupling member with a bore;

4 b) providing a radially flexible member with an external surface and an opening,
5 situating the radially flexible member within the bore

6 c) providing an elongated shaft member made of a super-elastic alloy, received
7 within the opening; and

- 8 d) relatively moving at least two of the members, causing the radially flexible
9 member to contact the shaft, inducing a super-elastic activation in the shaft that
10 urges the shaft and radially flexible member into surface-to-surface contact,
11 securing the members together in a fixed relative position.
- 1 **42. (withdrawn)** The method of Claim 41 wherein step d) further comprises
2 frictionally engaging the members along a contact area that carries the applied
3 torque, the contact area being calibrated to slip at a preset torque before the failure
4 strength of the shaft is reached.
- 1 **43. (withdrawn)** The method of Claim 42 further comprising the steps of providing
2 the female coupling member with a counter-bore, providing the radially flexible
3 member in the form of a collar made of super-elastic alloy and inducing a super-
4 elastic activation in the collar.
- 1 **44. (withdrawn)** The method of Claim 42 wherein step a) further comprises providing a
2 radially flexible member in the form of a split collet.
- 1 **45. (withdrawn)** A flexible surgical reamer having a torque-transmitting assembly
2 and comprising:
3 a) a fitting member formed with a counter-bore and including a cutting tool-bit;
4 b) a collar member made of super-elastic alloy, located in the counter-bore; and
5 c) an elongated shaft member made of a super-elastic alloy, adapted for receipt
6 within the collar;

7 whereupon relative motion among the members causes the opening to
8 contact the shaft, inducing a super-elastic activation in the shaft that urges the
9 shaft and the collar into surface-to-surface contact, securing the members together
10 in a fixed relative position.

1 46. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 45 wherein the collar is an annular member.

1 47. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 46 wherein the collar further comprises a
2 washer.

1 48. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 47 wherein the collar further comprises a
2 series of washers.

1 49. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 48 wherein the collar is pre-assembled with
2 the fitting.

1 50. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 45 further comprising an inter-positional
2 polymer sleeve for transmitting bending stress in the assembly.

1 51. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 45 wherein the contact occurs along an area
2 that frictionally carries the applied torque.

1 52. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 51 wherein the contact area is calibrated to slip at
2 a preset torque before the failure strength of the shaft is reached.

1 53. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 45 wherein the shaft is tubular, with a
2 cannulation.

1 54. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 53 wherein the fitting has a cannulation that
2 aligns with the shaft cannulation for passage of a guide wire through the reamer.

1 **55. (withdrawn) A flexible surgical reamer having a torque-transmitting assembly**
2 **and comprising:**

3 **a) a radially flexible member having a split collet with an exterior surface and an**
4 **opening, and including a cutting tool-bit;**

5 **b) an elongated shaft member made of a super-elastic alloy, received within the**
6 **opening; and**

7 **c) a sleeve having a bore that receives the exterior surface,**

8 **whereupon relative motion among the members causes the opening to contact the**
9 **shaft, inducing a super-elastic activation in the shaft that urges the shaft and the**
10 **collet into surface-to-surface contact, securing the members together in a fixed**
11 **relative position.**

1 **56. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 55 wherein the exterior surface is**
2 **compressed by the bore, further contracting the opening against the shaft to induce**
3 **the super-elastic activation.**

1 **57. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 55 wherein the shaft is tubular with a**
2 **cannulation for passage of a guide wire there through.**

1 **58. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 56 wherein the opening interferingly**
2 **receives the shaft and is expanded to compress the exterior surface against the**
3 **bore.**

- 1 **59. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 55 further comprising an inter-positional**
- 2 **polymer sleeve for transmitting bending stress in the assembly.**

- 1 **60. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 55 wherein the contact occurs along an area**
- 2 **that frictionally carries the applied torque.**

- 1 **61. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 60 wherein the contact area is calibrated to**
- 2 **slip at a preset torque before the failure strength of the shaft is reached.**

- 1 **62. (withdrawn) The reamer of Claim 61 wherein the shaft is further connected to**
- 2 **a powered instrument.**